Information Technology in April, 2001, New Zealand did show interest in the India Information Technology Act and they are thinking of bringing out a legislation on the lines of this IT Act.

New Zealand has also shown interest in entering into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Information Technology.

Licencing for IT Related Services

2659. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring Internet e-connection and all I.T related services under a licence regime; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor particularly when Government have discouraged and discontinued licence regime in other important sectors?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Licences are already being given on a non-exclusive basis for Internet Service Provider (ISPs) based on a very liberal policy. The licence fee has been in fact waived upto 31.10.2003, and even thereafter will be a token amount of only Rs. 1/- per annum. ISP licences are given to Indian companies with no requirement of applicant company having any prior experience in Information Technology or Telecom services.

As far as IT enabled services are concerned, the New Telecom Policy 1999 provides only for the registration of services under the category of "Other Service Providers' as follows: "For applications like tele-banking, tele-medicine, tele-education, tele-trading, e-commerce, other service providers will be allowed to operate by using infrastructure provided by various access providers. No license fee will be charged but registration for specific services being offered will be required. These service providers will not infringe on the jurisdiction of other access providers and they will not provide switched telephony".

There is no proposal to change the above position.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Export by Information Technology Industry

†2660. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export is being made from the country by the Information Technology Industry;

(b) if so, the names of the three States with maximum exports during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01; and

† Origina! notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) the percentage of the value of export made by these States out of the total annual export by the Information Technology Industry during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the information available with Ministry of Information Technology, me three States with maximum exports of Information Technology Software and Services during each of the years, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, are Karnataka, Delhi and Maharashtra.

(c) The percentage of the value of export made by the Information Technology Software and Services Industry in these States, out of the total annual export was approximately 63% during 1998-99, 62% during 1999-2000 and 59% during 2000-01.

IT National Advisory Committee

2661. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IT National Advisory Committee, appointed to review the impact of the slow-down in the US economy and chalk out an action plan to minimise its effects, has given its recommendation; and

(b) if so, what 3re the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The IT National Advisory Committee, in its 3rd meeting held on 10.5.2001, reviewed the issue of slow down of US economy and its likely impact on the Indian software exports.

(b) The Committee" observed that there was no cause for concern and the situation would be reviewed by me end of this year to assess the actual impact.

The Committee also felt that slow down would result in attracting more and more IT Enabled Services to India. Many call centres and medical transcription facilities are likely to be set up in India due to availability of skilled manpower at lower costs.

Production Targets of Computers and Peripherals

2662. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the production targets of computers and peripherals set for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that the targets set for 199<:~2000 and 2000-2001 were not met;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and